

**CITY OF VERO BEACH, FLORIDA
JUNE 2, 2020 8:30 A.M.
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

The invocation was given by Deacon Don Battista of St. Helen Catholic Church.

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Graves led the Council and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

B. Roll Call

Mayor Tony Young, present; Vice Mayor Laura Moss, present; Councilmember Robbie Brackett, present; Councilmember Joe Graves, present and Councilmember Rey Neville, present **Also Present:** Monte Falls, City Manager; John Turner, City Attorney; and Tammy Bursick, City Clerk

2. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular City Council Minutes – May 19, 2020

Mr. Neville made a motion to approve the May 19, 2020 City Council minutes. Vice Mayor Moss seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Special Call City Council Minutes – May 12, 2020

Mr. Neville made a motion to approve the May 12, 2020 Special Call minutes. Vice Mayor Moss seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A. Agenda Additions, Deletions, and Adoption.

Mayor Young added under Proclamations Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month. He also requested having the Police Chief give an update on the opioid situation and public demonstrations that are taking place and under the City Manager's Matters discussion of this year's July 4th fireworks will be discussed.

Vice Mayor Moss made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Neville seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Proclamations and recognitions by Council.

1) Presentation of the Flags – Vero Beach Sunrise Rotary Club

Mr. Rex Taylor, Rotarian, gave the history of when the flags first started going up on the bridges and the Sunrise Rotary Club presented Council with 10 new flags.

2) Code Enforcement Officers' Appreciation Week – June 1-5, 2020

Vice Mayor Moss read and presented the Code Enforcement Officer's Proclamation.

3) Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month – June 2020

Mr. Brackett read and presented the Proclamation.

Police Chief David Currey reported on the drug intervention that has been taking place over the last month or so. He recalled that he has talked to the Council about opioids in the past. He said that last year there was a total of 26 overdoses and this year they have already surpassed that number with 29 overdoses. They have received a grant for naran, which is very expensive. They first started with an injection and now it comes in nasal spray form. He hopes that the recent arrest of a drug dealer will make a difference in this City. He recalled a couple of years ago they made a similar arrest and right after the arrest overdoses dramatically dropped.

Vice Mayor Moss thanked Chief Currey and the Police Department for everything that they do for the community. She read for the record a letter submitted by Chief Currey (attached) concerning the shocking and senseless death of Mr. George Floyd.

Mayor Young commented that he spoke with the Police Chief yesterday concerning all of the activities that are going on and he knows that the different law enforcement agencies work well with each other. He said Chief Currey is engaged every day and reaching out to the community. He spoke with someone yesterday who spoke about the importance of the badge and uniform.

Chief Currey commented that it is important for the Police Department to be in the community at all times and forming relationships. So when the community needs support they know that the Police Department is there for them. They can't wait until something happens and then react because it could be too late. He works closely with Florida Chiefs in the State of Florida and he can always pick up the phone and call any one of them. It takes all of them to safeguard their community and to work together.

Mayor Young shared his own thoughts on Mr. George Floyd's death (he read a prepared speech attached to the original minutes). He said that he was grateful for the Police Department.

Mr. Graves added that he was proud to have Chief Currey as their Chief of Police for the City of Vero Beach and that the interaction that he has with the public is what is needed. He asked Chief Currey to explain their use of force policy.

Chief Currey commented that it is all about training. He said that the Vero Beach Police Department is accredited. He said that when it comes to an arrest the individual dictates what type of force will be utilized and the Police Officers are trained that way. He said that the head and the neck are not usually involved.

Mr. Graves questioned if what was done to Mr. George Floyd would that be a part of their policy.

Chief Currey said that it wouldn't be and it shouldn't be. He said that Police Officers are supplied with fire arms to use if they have to, but it would be dictated by the situation. He said no one wants to keep someone laying down on the ground for very long.

Mr. Graves wanted this community to feel assured that what happened in Minnesota is not going to happen here and it is against their policy.

Chief Currey concurred that it was not going to happen here.

Chief Currey commented that the Police Department delivered lunches to the Boys and Girls Club in Indian River County, which included Fellsmere. He just wanted it understood that they go other places and not just in Vero Beach.

Mr. Graves recalled that over the weekend they received a letter from someone who could not get a hold of one of her family members that was in a local nursing home. He (Mr. Graves) contacted the Chief about this and he took care of it. The telephone lines were down at the nursing home, which was making it hard for people to make contact. He told Chief Currey that he really appreciates the efforts that he makes and that his Police Officers make in circumstances like this one.

Mr. Monte Falls, City Manager, added that the money that was received from the drug bust that was made is known as a forfeiture and will now be handled in-house with the help of the City Attorney.

Mr. Falls gave a brief update on COVID-19. He said that there have been some additional cases amounting to 16 cases over the last couple of weeks. However, the percentage positive is still below 2.5%. He cautioned the community to still be careful as they go through their daily lives and to continue washing their hands and staying at home.

3. CONSENT AGENDA (include amount of expense)

- A) Acid Skid Replacement, Bid 150-20 – Anticipated Expenditure: \$99,998**
- B) USTA “Facility Recovery Grant Award”**

Mr. Neville made a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Mr. Brackett seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A) ORDINANCES

B) RESOLUTIONS

- 1) A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, authorizing the City to enter into a Federal Grant Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration as part of the “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act” (VRB-SOG-3-12-0083-043-2020) at Vero Beach Regional Airport; delegating to the City Manager the Authority to Execute the Agreement and act as the City’s authorized agent for performance of the agreement; Providing for an Effective Date. – Requested by the Airport Director**

The City Clerk read the Resolution by title only.

Mr. Falls reported that the CARES Act provides funds for any use that the Airport revenue would normally be used for and the CARES Act provides funds to increase the federal share to 100% for any current Airport Improvement Program. The Airport currently has one (1) funded project, entitled “Rehabilitate GA Apron,” which will now be funded at 100% by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and there is no action necessary to amend that grant. This Resolution authorizes the Mayor and/or City Manager to execute this FAA grant. The money will be used as quickly as possible to help the economy.

Mr. Neville made a motion to approve the Resolution. Vice Mayor Moss seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 with Mr. Neville voting yes, Mr. Graves yes, Mr. Brackett yes, Vice Mayor Moss yes, and Mayor Young yes.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT (3-minute time limit)

Mrs. Jean Catchpole read a prepared statement (please see attached).

Mr. Roger Pridgeon gave a handout regarding the Airport and went over it with Council (please see attached).

Mr. Falls explained that they have been told by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) that the grant money used for this project cannot be modified again because of where it is in the process (referring to Mr. Pridgeon). If the grant could be modified this plan may be something that they would want to do in order to see the Airport prosper and grow.

6. CITY COUNCIL MATTERS

A) NEW BUSINESS

- 1) **Pre-budget workshop review of financial considerations to be conducted by City Manager and Finance Director as requested at the Council meeting of 05/05/2020. Community comments welcome.**
 - a) **Infrastructure Inventory. Review key projects that must be addressed in FY 2020/2021**
 - b) **Proceeds of FPL sale. Review expenditures of funds and the remaining balance.**
 - c) **Proceeds of sales of City property. Review disposition of amounts received for Dodgertown and Downtown Post Office.**
 - d) **Financial status of Leisure Square**
 - e) **New projects. For example, installation of native plants along 14th Avenue Downtown. Additional lighting in downtown business district. Others**
 - f) **Discussion Regarding General Fund Balance and Infrastructure Projects (back up material attached provided by staff)**

Requested by Vice Mayor Laura Moss

Vice Mayor Moss prefaced what they were going to discuss by explaining to the community that they have requested that they do this pre-budget workshop in a more formal manner than what they usually do and if they find it helpful and useful then she would suggest that they do it every year. She would like to see not only Council discussion, but to include the community so they know what Council will be working on at the budget workshops that will be held in July. She said that often no one attends the budget workshops. She has attended every year even before she was in office. This is an opportunity for the community to understand how this works. The backup material is located on the City's website and she thanked the City Manager and the Finance Director for putting this together. She was sorry that more people could not actually be attending their meetings because of the virus, but they certainly can let Council know what is important to them in terms of the budget by sending an email to any of them or to the City Clerk. On the front page of the Press Journal an announcement was made in regards to the property tax appraisal by Mr. Wesley Davis, who is the Property Appraiser, and it is showing a 3.9% increase in the County. What he is saying is that Property Appraisers must provide individual value rolls certified by July 1st. The problem with this is that these values are based on what is was on January 1st and they all know that will change. She read the following from the Press Journal "Property valuations from January almost certainly do not accurately reflect post-emergency values, and without help, relief may not be available for more than a year," Davis said. The value of income-producing properties such as hotels and vacation rentals may have been affected the most, he said. Davis is urging local taxing authorities to exercise caution when setting tax rates for 2020-21, and is asking the Legislature to provide some relief.

Vice Mayor Moss referred to the City backup material, which is located on the City website under covb.org. She was looking at Attachment C and wanted to point out to the community that one of the things that they have done is set aside a reserve as the unfunded Pension Liability Reserve, which is almost \$15 million. There is an other Post

Employment Benefits (OPEB) Reserve, which is almost \$10 million and they also have a Capital and Infrastructure Reserve of \$21 million. She commended previous Councils' and the Finance Director and City Manager for exercising good stewardship in terms of the fiscal condition of the City. They have been very cautious of what they have been doing and they do have these reserves. She said these unfunded pension liabilities is something that not everyone thinks about. She referred to the Five Year Capital Improvement Program (Attachment D) that was provided by the Finance Director. She brought up stormwater and commented that the former City Manager, Mr. Jim O'Connor, determined that the main effort in which they could engage to reduce debris going into the Lagoon, i.e. stormwater was street sweeping. They definitely don't want to cut expenses in that area. She was looking at Fund 302 under Vehicles-Fleet and Streets Stormwater and the suggestion was made to reduce operating costs and maximize resale value of some vehicles. She would be hesitant to delay anything in this area based upon knowledge that turns out street sweeping is a critical factor. Then there were lesser amounts for new sidewalk construction. She said that has made people so much safer and she thanked the City Manager for the sidewalk on Indian Drive East because they hear all the time how it makes neighborhoods safer. There are a lot of traffic concerns not only on the beachside, but also in McAnsh Park so it is very important to do all of those things and to make people feel safer in terms of the streets and sidewalks. The other items having to do with safe neighborhoods are radar speed detection signs, Park Avenue speed tables and Jaycee Park A1A access driveway. She said anything that increases traffic safety is critical. They have been hearing from the community for many years now about this particular matter so it appears to be important. She would like to see the Council stay with those numbers.

Mr. Falls commented that this is the information that Council asked that they put together. He invited the Finance Director to speak on it.

Ms. Cindy Lawson, Finance Director, stated that one (1) of the requests that she had yesterday was to talk a little about how they received the fund balances that they have from the Florida Power and Light (FPL) sale. She passed out a sheet covering the uses of residual cash after the FPL sale was completed (on file attached to the original minutes). She said that after they made all the decisions of where this cash flow should go they passed a Resolution setting aside \$12 million to be appropriated in future years for capital and infrastructure. She said for many years the City has not had enough money in the one-cent sales tax to fund all of the projects that they have. It is a fact that the budget has to be balanced according to Florida law so what they do every year is create a spread sheet and staff establishes priorities to put in the budget. She now includes an unfunded project list so Council can see every year the projects that had to be cut in order to balance the budget. At the end of the day there usually is not enough money in the one-cent sales tax to cover all of the projects. She wanted to express that all of the projects are important or they would not be in the budget, but they need to defer some of the projects to another year. The sale of Dodgertown and the Downtown Post Office funds were put into Fund 304. She said at the time they sold the Downtown Post Office property there was a Councilmember who expressed that the proceeds from the Post Office be dedicated to the Lateral-E project so it has been informally and she has kept track of it. The net cost of Lateral-E after the anticipated grants there will be money left over for other things. She attached a quarterly

report of how they were looking in the Recreation Department. She said in order to increase the transparency of how much do their facilities and programs in Recreation cost them in net, they divided the budget up in cost centers and began tracking the revenues and the expenses for individual cost centers to see how much upside down they would be in each one. She said if they look at the report through the month end of March after some changes in rates and finance policies at Leisure Square things were doing well until the virus appeared. She welcomed any feedback that the Council has on the infrastructure projects when they start making some of the hard choices of what to include or not include and keeping in mind that they do have an infrastructure reserve available to them.

Mayor Young commented that Ms. Lawson has done an awesome job. He appreciated the transparency on Leisure Square and the Recreation Department is great.

Mr. Falls pointed out for the Council and for the public that they are in good fiscal shape. They have \$65 million in the General Fund Fund Balance. Through the Fund Balance policy that Council adopted there is a \$5 million disaster fund. They have the unfunded pension liability of \$14.5 million and for OPEB there is \$10 million. Then they also have the \$12 million for infrastructure adequate cash flow. Because they have these funds they are able to make it through times when they have unforeseen circumstances like what they are going through right now.

Ms. Lawson brought up the budget stabilization reserve. She said that 10% of their budget exists in their reserves to handle things that occur after the budget has been adopted. This is there because they cannot possibly know when adopting a budget in July how the year is going to turn out.

Mr. Neville asked Ms. Lawson what was the burn rate on the expenditures this year and whether or not all the projects set aside for this year are going to be completed.

Ms. Lawson stated in the Capital and Construction Fund probably not and another thing that has been delayed is the purchase of the vehicles and that probably won't take place until August. However, the vehicles will be ordered and taken out of this year's budget.

Mr. Neville asked Ms. Lawson if she forecasted seeing any carryover to the following year.

Ms. Lawson said that they will see some carryover.

Mrs. Bursick read a public comment made by Mr. Keith Drewett.

Ms. Lawson stated that her recommendation has been all along if they do a stormwater utility that they do it by non-ad valorem assessment, which has a lot of benefits. As a Council they could establish the dollar amount for this non-ad valorem assessment for each fiscal year to be whatever they would like it to be. It is a policy decision as to whether or not Council would like to raise revenue that way.

Mr. Neville stated that they still have a shortfall in revenue.

Ms. Lawson agreed that they do not have the funding for everything that they need, which is why they have the unfunded projects list. She anticipated the one-cent tax rate is going to go down this coming year, which will create additional problems as needs grow and the revenue resources decline.

Vice Mayor Moss asked how Leisure Square was looking before March. She said that this was her main impetus in requesting this. She said that last year during the budget hearings there was a lot of concerns about Leisure Square, especially the pool. She said the process was painful, but good things came out of it and Ms. Lawson took the reins so to speak and is now handling the recordkeeping and took over the finances.

Ms. Lawson referred to the graph that she provided to Council and said that expenditures were up a bit and revenues were at what they anticipated. She said of course summer camp is running below expectations because it has not started yet.

Mr. Neville was pleased to announce that a crosswalk at Greytwig is going to be installed in September. He said that it is equally as dangerous to the south right now, but it is in the 2020-2023 budget to implement a crosswalk there. He said that there already has been one (1) person die crossing that street. Sadly they did not respond to that at the time and he thinks it is time for the City to do it on their own if they can't get the State to do it. They have two (2) choices to either go down to Beachland or 17th Street to find a crosswalk, which in his opinion is unreasonable. He knows that the State will be putting in a sidewalk on the East side of A1A, which will be a great asset. The other thing that he would like them to get started on is to reimagine their City Hall. They have an office in the lobby that is just full of documents and that office could be beneficial for some other purpose. He said if anyone has ever walked around in this building he wonders how they ever find their way out. They could at least start the engineering process of reimaging their City Hall. The other thing that he would like to do is reimagine what they now call Leisure Square, which is probably one of the silliest names he has ever heard of for a recreation facility. If they were to reimagine Leisure Square and repurpose some of the structures and make it more appealing to their community they would see a huge increase in participation and great benefit to the people who need that asset. He is asking that they start the process of thinking about that and he would encourage comments from the Council on those projects.

Mayor Young agreed with Mr. Neville in reimaging Leisure Square and he thinks that there is a golden egg there that they could truly get a lot of benefit from.

Mr. Graves agreed with Mr. Neville that crossing A1A is a dangerous issue. He also agrees that Leisure Square deserves their attention. He has taken a tour of Leisure Square and it is quite outdated in some areas, but it all depends on their funding. They need to be careful with their funding because they don't know what is going to happen this year with their sales tax that gives them general revenue. He appreciated Mrs. Catchpole coming to today's meeting and talking about stormwater utility. He knows that it probably is not a great time to be talking about a user fee, which is how he looks at stormwater as opposed to a tax. He thinks that establishing a revenue source for their stormwater needs is

important. He knows that this has been studied and passed on by Council. He said that stormwater seems to be a project that continuously gets pushed down the road. He thinks that infrastructure is always a critical need and something that needs to be looked at as a priority. Also, when looking at their budget their employees are important and their Police Officers are important and a priority is making sure that the Police Officers are well compensated and are being paid appropriately for the job that they are doing.

Mr. Brackett commended Finance staff on what they do. He said it is fortunate that they don't have a deficit. He said that Leisure Square could be rebranded and put to better use that way and be more of a destination point to go to. He is pleased with what is happening at Leisure Square. They have looked at the fees and structures and year to date it is already at \$52,000. He said the unknowns are going to be what the revenues are going to be and they are going to have to pick and choose some of their projects and how they are going to fund them. They are probably going to be up a little bit in ad valorem taxes because real estate is still doing fine, but the one-cent sales tax is going to take a big hit.

Mr. Neville requested that Council initiate a request to staff to start thinking about budgeting a general conceptual design for configuring City Hall. He hated to see the office in the lobby filled with documents because there was no other place to put them.

Vice Mayor Moss commented that she looked into having the Veterans Council occupy space in this building, but they could not go in that space because there was not another place for the documents. He asked Mr. Neville if he wanted to stay in this building. She mentioned the roof leak that is in Mr. Falls office.

Mr. Falls said the leak may have stopped because it stopped raining. He said that they do have in their five (5) year plan a roof replacement for City Hall. There was some discussion at last year's budget about exploring a new City Hall at the Three Corners site. They could take a look at what could be done at City Hall. The reason that they utilized the options for the storage was because the files had to be located on the first floor because of low bearing and they did not have time to look at where they might move someone else. He said they could find out what it would cost to have someone help them with this.

Mr. Neville thought that they were looking at the place where the Water Plant sits that might be beneficial for rehabbing of the building.

Vice Mayor Moss recalled that one thing that came up in a Steering Committee meeting is that if City Hall were to be moved to that location as it has been done in other parts of the world that City Hall is not just for government. It is multi-purpose. There also could be concerts there, art shows there, and if this were to happen then this would be a great way to get more people to participate in the process of government. It would be nice to see people come in early in the process than at the end of the process where it might be too late and they could become upset. If there was a destination where people were already going and enjoying it then perhaps they might be interested in participating directly in what City Council does here. This would be so beneficial to the community. Although, she loves history and the historical value that this building has.

Mr. Brackett commented that they needed to be careful when talking about things like this. They are looking at having their tax revenue decline. They may not need to be fixing up the offices here at City Hall, but looking at infrastructure. He said last year there was \$20,000 in the budget for new carpets and they took that money out and used it for rain gardens.

Mayor Young asked Ms. Lawson what are they looking at this year as far as the sliding scale for the funds from the electric sale.

Ms. Lawson said this is the third year and it is \$1.5 million.

Mayor Young asked Mr. Falls if he was looking at any reduction in staffing at this point.

Mr. Falls stated that they are looking at the same size workforce that they have to maintain the level of service as they know and the public knows. He said about 10 years ago they cut about 10% of their workforce and they are doing the best they can to maintain that level of service.

Ms. Lawson commented about the ad valorem assessments. She said if you look at the CAFR there is a stat section that shows assessed values historically. In 2008, when there was the massive bust in the real estate market it took almost five (5) years for the decline in value to unfold.

Mr. Graves agreed with Mr. Brackett on the City Hall issue. He said that they have other pressing needs. He understands the need to make sure the facilities here are upgraded and safe for their employees, but they need to be careful.

Mr. Falls felt that Mr. Neville made some good points and that internally staff could look at some things that won't cost much and get some ideas.

Mr. Graves felt that there needed to be a cost analysis between construction of a new City Hall versus refurbishing this one.

Mr. Neville agreed that there needs to be a study to set a baseline. They already have a million dollars put in the budget for a new roof. Do they put the new roof on or take that money and tear this building down and build a new City Hall. He said they can't make a decision without some hard cost comparisons.

Mr. Graves said that sometimes it is cheaper to build then to refurbish.

Mayor Young explained the problem that they have is the buckets upstairs that they have to catch the water from the roof leaking and they can't continue to operate that way.

Mr. Falls said that he would get a rough idea of what it might cost to have an architect do a study and let Council know.

Mayor Young asked Mr. Falls if they purchased a second street sweeper.

Mr. Falls explained a second street sweeper was not purchased, but overtime was given for the street sweeper. To make sure what the effectiveness was he will talk to the Public Works Director next week on how that is working out.

Mayor Young asked if they defer Lateral-E, does that jeopardize the grant.

Mr. Falls said that they don't currently have a grant for Lateral-E. It was an anticipated grant. Mr. Neville asked what is Lateral-E. Mr. Falls explained that it is a ditch that runs through the area of the old town and discharges into the main relief canal just to the west of the spillway. It is a project now that is untreated watershed. The water that goes into that ditch is not treated and it goes into the main relief canal. They have looked at projects over the last 10 years to do some treatment in the ditch and they had one (1) and had a grant to help cover the costs for it and were ready to go to construction when they found Vero Man and had to stop. However, they were able to use those grant funds at Humiston Park to do a major stormwater project over there. He said that Lateral-E is a stormwater, water quality project.

Ms. Lawson brought up stormwater and said if they do it through non-ad valorem assessment it will essentially take about a year just to do the groundwork to put stormwater utility in place. She said they would not start collecting revenue until October 2021. What she intends to do is create a spreadsheet showing the money that they would have to spend in the coming fiscal year in order to have everything in place to have a stormwater utility for 2021-2022. She asked Council if that was what they were after. They (Council) will decide if they want to appropriate those funds or not.

Mayor Young felt that they were further along in the study.

Ms. Lawson said the study has been going on for about four (4) years now. It is much better to do this by non-ad valorem assessment then by utility billing.

Mr. Neville asked if the contract had two (2) parts and the second part has not been executed. Mr. Falls told him that was correct.

Ms. Lawson brought up that there are some new legislative changes that the Public Works Director and the Water and Sewer Director are trying to wrap their arms around as to what they mean. Those items will be addressed before Council at their budget workshops.

Vice Mayor Moss told the community that if they want to do something right away to plant native plants, and Florida friendly plants to do so. Don't wait for government to solve the problem. She told everyone to look at City Hall where this has been done. There were visitors from an HOA that came and looked at the rain gardens at City Hall and they liked them so much that the HOA agreed to do it in their area.

Mr. Neville asked Mr. Falls if he knew what the price would be to finish off that study for City Hall.

Mr. Falls said that he would bring it back to Council.

Council took a short break and the meeting reconvened at 10:42 a.m.

B) OLD BUSINESS

1) 2020 US Census

Please see the City website (covb.org) or 2020 census.gov for additional information.

a) 2020 Census form

b) PSA video (2020census.gov): What is the 2020 census (30 seconds)

c) PSA video (2020census.gov): Is my 2020 census date safe? (30 seconds)

d) PSA video (2020census.gov): How do I take the 2020 census (30 seconds)

Requested by Vice Mayor Laura Moss, Vice Chair of the Indian River County Census 2020 Committee

Vice Mayor reported that she recently attended a Census 2020 Committee meeting and the gist of the meeting was to remind the public to fill out their census forms if they have not already. She reported at the meeting that the City of Vero Beach discusses this matter at each of their meetings and shows three (3) short PSA videos.

**2) Approve Policy for City Councilmembers to use City letterhead –
Requested by City Council**

Mr. John Turner, City Attorney, reported that at the next City Council meeting he will be bringing a Code Enforcement Board matter where a case has a lien on it and Council heard the case and ruled on it back in August of last year. This will give the violator and his attorney the opportunity to appear at the meeting if they wish to do so.

Mr. Turner explained the letterhead and email policy for the City Council. A Councilmember may use the City's name, letterhead, e-mail, logo, or seal only when it would be perceived as representing the City or the body as a whole and only with the prior consent of Council. However, this provision will not prohibit individual Councilmembers from using City letterhead and resources to write personal congratulatory letters with a copy being provided to the City Clerk and each Councilmember.

Mr. Neville felt that this looked appropriate.

Vice Mayor Moss commented that to her knowledge the only problem they ever had was a letter that was written to the National Rifle Association. She said that people in the elected office should be trusted to use the stationary properly and appropriately.

Mayor Young commented that he recently used the stationary for a letter that he sent to someone for supporting the Memorial Day ceremony and providing a veil for a tribute to Joe Catiglo and he expressed his appreciation on behalf of the City for his contribution.

7. PUBLIC NOTICE ITEMS FOR FUTURE PUBLIC HEARING

- Public Hearing on this Ordinance to be held on June 16, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.**
- A) **An Ordinance of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, instituting a Moratorium on Site Plan Approval, for Development within the Cardinal Drive/Ocean Drive Commercial Overlay District, for 180 days to allow time for formulation and adoption of revised off-street parking requirements Ordinance; Providing for an Effective Date. – Requested by the Planning and Development Director**

The City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only and reported that the public hearing on this Ordinance would be heard on June 16, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

- Public Hearing on this Ordinance to be held on June 16, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.**
- B) **An Ordinance of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, amending Chapter 38, Article 1 (Signs) of the Land Development Regulations to Revise or Add Sign Definitions, Revise the List of Prohibited Signs, Revise the List of Signs Exempt from the Sign Regulations, Revise the List of Signs not requiring permits, Revise the General Sign Regulations, Add Standards for Specific Sign Types, Revise Sign Requirements for Residential and Non-Residential Zoning Districts Revise Temporary Sign Standards, and Requirements for Removal of Abandoned Signs, Revise Standards for Non-Conforming Signs, add a Substitution Clause, and Revise Application Review Process; Providing for Codification; Providing for Conflict and Severability; and Providing for an Effective Date. – Requested by the Planning and Development Director**

The City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only and reported that the public hearing on this Ordinance would be heard on June 16, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

8. CITY CLERK MATTERS

- A) **Reappointment to the Historic Preservation Commission**

Mr. Steve Erickson's appointment on the Historic Preservation Commission expires on June 15, 2020 and he would like to be reappointed. It was the consensus of the Council to reappoint Mr. Steve Erickson to the Historic Preservation Commission for another four (4) years.

- 9. CITY MANAGER MATTERS (include amount of expense)
(Staff/Consultant special reports and information items)**

A) Add on Item – Discussion of July 4th Event

Mr. Falls commented that most of the cities on the Treasure Coast have cancelled or postponed their annual July 4th fireworks because of the Coronavirus. It would be staff's recommendation because of the huge crowd that this event draws that the City of Vero Beach do the same. They could look at alternative dates to hold the event.

Mr. Neville liked the idea of having the event on another day, such as Labor Day. He said that Labor Day used to be a big holiday in this community. He recalled there used to be a Labor Day parade, which was a big event.

It was the consensus of Council not to hold their fireworks event on July 4th, but to work towards holding it on the same night as the Beachside Bonfire.

10. CITY ATTORNEY MATTERS

The City Attorney's matters were discussed earlier in the meeting.

11. COUNCILMEMBER MATTERS

A. Mayor Young's Matters

Mayor Young reported on the small dedication that was held on Memorial Day at Memorial Island. He said that the weather was not very good on that day. He remembered talking to a veteran that was there that morning who served in the Vietnam War and told the story of a good friend that he lost in that war and he placed this mans photo on one of the wreaths to honor him. He said that Memorial Island is a place of healing.

Mayor Young reported that he met with Mrs. Susan Gromis, of MainStreet, who informed him that there have been eight (8) businesses that have shut down in downtown Vero Beach as a result of the Coronavirus.

Mr. Neville expressed the need for better lighting downtown. He also mentioned maybe closing one of the streets down and allowing the restaurants to have more tables and chairs.

Mayor Young reminded Council that on June 16th they will hold their regular City Council meeting and then on that afternoon there will be a Steering Committee meeting held at 2:00 p.m. and on January 23rd they will be having a workshop.

B. Vice Mayor Moss's Matters

Vice Mayor Moss commented that on Memorial Day she called Mr. John Michael Matthews and asked him what was being planned in light of the bad weather that they were having. She was told by Mr. Matthews that he would be going to Memorial Island to lower the flag, but she did not have to be there. She wanted to go anyway to pay her respects. She attended along with Mr. John Michael Matthews, Mr. Jim Romanek, Veterans

Executive Director, and his son. She said what a beautiful thing that was and she thought about it later. The two (2) words “Just Me.” Those who serve are so humble yet they perform grand missions to serve our County. It relates to the story that Mayor Young was talking about earlier. The story is horrific and demonstrates that point.

1) Free Live Oak Trees Available at Audubon House! Press release with details attached.

Vice Mayor Moss reminded the community that there are free Live Oak Trees available and the flyer is uploaded on the City’s website.

Vice Mayor Moss reported that Mrs. Daisy Packer is back in action with Keep Indian River Beautiful. They will be hosting their first beach clean-up on Saturday at South Beach Park and social distancing will be maintained. She said anyone wanting to attend needs to sign-up ahead of time. Vice Mayor Moss expressed how hard Mrs. Packer works for the community. She said that Keep Indian River Beautiful’s store will be closing and everything in the store will be sold. The stores last day to be open is June 15. The address is 1596 Old Dixie Highway.

C. Councilmember Brackett’s Matters

Mr. Brackett commented that maybe a sign needs to be placed at Troy Moody Park letting people know that the playground equipment is being replaced.

Mr. Brackett provided the City Attorney with a Resolution that the School Board passed regarding vaping and asked him to look at it and bring something back to Council. He expressed how much the downtown businesses need their support. The restaurants are having a hard time making it at 50% capacity. He said before the Coronavirus the downtown area was busy every night. He said that everyone needs to do everything that they can to support them. He said that a lot of the businesses are hurting.

D. Councilmember Joe Graves’s Matters

Mr. Graves agreed with supporting their businesses. He said that they will still need to work on the parking for the downtown area and the beachside area. He agreed that they all needed to support their businesses. He knows that when the businesses are back up and running the parking problems will begin again. He is happy with the direction that the State is going in and will be talking to the Governor’s office on Friday. He brought up that the situation that took place in Minnesota would not happen here as stated earlier by the Chief of Police. Their officers are trained to intervene and not use neck restraint in that type of situation. Locally that issue was the hardest video that he has watched in his life. What they all must keep in mind is that this was the action of one (1) individual and that is not reflective of the officers as a whole. They ask their Police Officers to do a difficult job every day. They are due respect from the public. It is fine to protest, but when it turns to violence that is a different matter. He is proud that their City had a protest that was done in a friendly manner. Community policing is something that they employ here. The Police

Officers need to be assured that the citizens have their back and support on what they are doing and thank them for what they do for this community. They must have their ears opened to what they can do for the African community to make it better. He encouraged them to get out and vote and attend their meetings. They need to address their concerns to the government. They want to hear what they have to say and represent all interests of these people in their community.

E. Councilmember Rey Neville's Matters

Mr. Neville recalled during their discussion about the Proclamation that Council sent to the Governor, he put forth a notion that might be useful to their restaurants and businesses about who is meeting the COVID-19 requirements. If they were to voluntarily have them ask the City to do an inspection maybe using their Code Enforcement Officers or volunteers giving them some sort of indication on the front of their business and also making it available to the Press. There would be a box checked off saying that this organization has met all of the COVID-19 requirements as of the date they were inspected.

Mr. Neville wanted to share a personal experience. He said the violence that they are seeing on television is horrible. He moved to Vero Beach when he was eight (8) years old and he did not know anything about racial issues. He went to the Court House with his dad and got a drink of water out of the water fountain and was told not to drink out of that fountain because it was for the "Colored." He went through elementary school and high school where the whites and blacks were segregated. In the last year that he attended the University of Florida black students were finally allowed to attend. He absorbed that culture. He then went into the Air Force and went through extensive training and is aware of how cultural affects people and how people respond to things. They have done a good job up to this point, but have a long way to go. He requested a moment of silence for the future of their Country.

Mrs. Bursick read a public comment from H. Briody who asked why must their Vero Beach Police Officers wear guns and for what purpose.

Mayor Young commented that as an Army soldier for 30-years he carried a weapon to defend their nation and the Police Officers carry a weapon to defend this community.

Mayor Young reminded the community that hurricane season is here and that they should review their hurricane plans.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

/tb